

Diane Weinstein
24116 SE 45th Place
Issaquah WA 98029

December 12, 2005

Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
Farm Bill
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-3355

RE: 2007 Farm Bill

Dear Secretary Johanns:

The USDA website to enter comments on the 2007 Farm Bill has been inaccessible. I am therefore submitting my comments to the questions via this letter.

Question #1: How should farm policy be designed to maximize US competitiveness and our country's ability to compete effectively in global markets?

Consumers want and expect the humane treatment of animals. To be able to compete we must adopt animal welfare standards superior to that of the European Union.

Question #2: How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?

Instead of subsidizing large factory farms, small farmers who use sustainable farming techniques and support the humane treatment of animals should be encouraged and helped in their endeavors.

Question #3: How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?

Factory farms should not be subsidized, but strictly regulated and taxed to support humane and sustainable farming.

Question #4: How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

The single most important thing an individual can do for their health and for the health of the environment is to adopt a vegetarian diet. Farm subsidies should support this effort.

Albert Einstein said, "Nothing will benefit human health and increase chances for survival of life on Earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet."

Question #5: How can rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

Rural quality of life can be improved by eliminating factory farms and by promoting the humane treatment of animals. This will not only benefit farmers, but also farm workers, consumers, the environment, as well as all living things.

"We must fight against the spirit of unconscious cruelty with which we treat the animals. Animals suffer as much as we do. True humanity does not allow us to impose such sufferings on them. It is our duty to make the whole world recognize it. Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace."

- Albert Schweitzer (Nobel 1952)

Question #6: How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

Product development, marketing, and research activities should be directed to promoting a vegetarian diet, sustainable farming, and animal welfare.

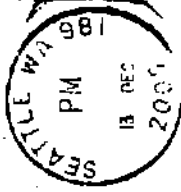
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Weinstein", with a stylized, flowing script.

Diane Weinstein

Proud Supporter of The Fund for Animals

Ms. Diane Weinstein
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Mike Johnson, Sec. of Agriculture
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